

MESSAGE FROM VALERIE PRINGLE,
CHAIR OF THE TCT FOUNDATION BOARD
**BREATHING LIFE INTO THE TRAIL'S
CONNECTION**



I am deeply connected to The Great Trail. I was smitten 20 years ago when I first saw the thin red line on a map of Canada from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Arctic oceans. The Trail is a brilliant way to get outside, spend time in nature and get some exercise, which we know makes us healthier and happier.

We worked hard to connect the Trail across Canada and raised an astonishing \$83 million with the support of all levels of government and thousands of donors like you, who love and believe in the value of this magnificent national project.

Even though the Trail is connected, it isn't complete or finished. We now move to the next phase – the one where we breathe life into that word 'connection' by reaffirming our commitment to the continued growth, enhancement and preservation of The Great Trail. We need your help more than ever before.

Now my connection to The Great Trail is profound – it's love, actually. It is a deep connection and an emotional bond with this country, and I would love all of you to discover it, use it and treasure it.

Photos: Valerie Pringle on the Trail near Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON © Robert Nowell / (Below) A family enjoys cycling along the P'tit Train du Nord, QC © Daniel Baylis / (Cover) Darren Yelton, carver from the Squamish Nation, on the Trail in North Vancouver, BC © Kalen Emsley



OUR NEXT STEPS ON THE GREAT TRAIL

We look forward to deepening the Trail's connection across Canada by maintaining existing Trail sections and creating new ones, converting roadways to greenways, where possible, making the Trail more accessible for all and strengthening our bonds with Indigenous communities. **We have so much to accomplish, and we hope you will continue with us on our journey!**

Please visit thegreattrail.ca to learn more about Canada's national Trail, or contact our team at **1-800-465-3636** or donorservices@tctrail.ca.

THE GREAT
TRAIL



deeply
connected



TheGreatTrail.ca

Your impact
on The Great Trail

A MESSAGE FROM TCT PRESIDENT
& CEO, DEBORAH APPS:
**DEEPENING OUR CONNECTION TO
CANADA'S NATIONAL TRAIL**



Today, technology connects us in ways we never thought possible, but we still strive for something deeper, more meaningful. The Great Trail offers just that. Now stretching over 24,000 kilometres, this national legacy offers us the opportunity to connect with our majestic landscapes, our history and our sense of belonging.

Thanks to thousands of donors like you, we have contributed funding to 76 Trail projects in 2018. These projects focus on making the Trail more accessible, strengthening our links with Indigenous communities, repairing Trail sections after natural disasters and converting roadways to greenways. Yet the Trail's journey is just beginning, and as with all projects in partnership with Mother Nature, we still need your support to protect and enhance the Trail for us and for future generations.

Why? Because The Great Trail is much more than a line on a map – it is the essence of who we are, and the many journeys that have brought us to this point. And, as Canadians, you and I have an opportunity to deepen our connection to Canada through our national Trail by continuing to support this ever-evolving dream.

Much work lies ahead to enhance Canada's national Trail, and we are grateful for your ongoing support. With your continued generosity, the Trail will help you connect to something that really matters to you.

Photo: Deborah Apps on the Trail in Fish Creek Provincial Park, Calgary, AB © Andrew Penner

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

Your gift has helped create something truly remarkable: a national trail network that showcases Canada's famed natural beauty and diverse communities.

Donor contributions continue to support essential Trail development and maintenance, to ensure the Trail remains a legacy that we can all take pride in.

TCT continues to grant funding to Trail groups to plan routes, acquire land permissions, install signage, hire engineering firms, build paths and construct trailheads. We are also committed to supporting educational and promotional activities that encourage everyone to enjoy this gift from Canadians to Canadians.

Photo: Cycling at Second Beach, Vancouver, BC © *Kalen Emsley*



The Trail in numbers



80%
of Canadians live
within 30 minutes
of the Trail

Over
24,000
kilometres

Connects over
15,000
communities

76 Trail improvement projects supported in 2018, including:

- A new **greenway** at the Colinton Bridge along the **Athabasca Landing Trail, Alberta**
- Upgrades to **one of the oldest sections** of the Trail in **Meewasin, Saskatchewan**
- **Three new bridges** upgraded in the **Chezzecon** watershed in **Nova Scotia**, allowing roadways on the Trail to be converted to greenways
- The construction of a **new bridge** along the **Jackson Creek Trail, Ontario**

Enhancing the Trail for future generations:

- **14** roadways converted to **greenways**
- **7** Trail sections made more **accessible**

Showing the way on Canada's national Trail in 2018:

- **3,375** kilometres of Trail had new signage installed
- Refurbished donor pavilions in **Vancouver, Whitehorse, Winnipeg, Quebec City** and **Halifax**

ESSENTIAL REPAIRS TO A SPECTACULAR TRAIL IN SASKATCHEWAN



At the Ravine Ecological Preserve, Trail enthusiasts are surrounded by the beauty of various natural habitats, including grasslands, parklands and wetlands. A floating boardwalk has always been a popular aspect of this hiking trail, but localized

floods rendered the boardwalk unstable and forced local authorities to take it out of commission. As a result, users were forced to detour through ecologically sensitive wetland.

But, with your help, we supported major repair work to the boardwalk, ensuring that the Trail remained connected in this spectacular region. Now that repairs are complete, Trail users are once again able to experience the fantastic view of the ravine.

"We are proud to have supported the repair of this essential boardwalk along the Yorkton Trail," says Mathieu Roy, Vice-President, Trail Development and Management. "This Trail

section in the Ravine Ecological Preserve gives locals and visitors the chance to fully experience the diversity of this beautiful area."

Photo: The repaired boardwalk in Yorkton, SK © *Kristen Gabora*

CELEBRATING ANCIENT HERITAGE IN TULITA



Taking its name from the Dene word for "where the waters meet", the hamlet of Tulita in the Northwest Territories is located at the confluence of the Mackenzie River and the Great Bear River, and boasts magnificent views of the Mackenzie Mountains and Bear Rock. This community of just 600 people – 90% of whom are of Indigenous descent – has established itself as a popular stopover for paddlers on the Mackenzie River Trail. However, this fascinating hamlet has the potential to be far more than just a place to resupply.

Thanks to your gift, more adventurers can discover this beautiful area via a new section of The Great Trail. The recently completed Two Rivers Trail promises to bring even more benefits to the community. Supported in part by TCT, this new and accessible greenway links the campground to the town centre along the Mackenzie River, offering majestic views while providing a safe pedestrian route for visitors and locals. This new trail, built by local craftspeople, brings outdoor enthusiasts to local heritage sites and guided tours.

It also connects visitors with local art and culture, and the traditional values and stories shared by Elders and others in the community.

With your continued support, we look forward to nurturing our bonds with Indigenous communities by working with them on projects that celebrate their heritage and stories.

Photos: The Two Rivers Trail, Tulita, NWT © *Hamlet of Tulita*